

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The rejection of claim 14 over Colvin in view of Kinsley is respectfully traversed. The examiner concludes that Figure 3 of the primary Colvin reference shows a ring having a bevel angle that varies in the circumferential direction, "such that the angle is smaller in an area adjacent said gap as compared to an area diametrically opposed to said gap" (see examiner's remarks in the sentence bridging pages 2 and 3 of the office action. This is not what Colvin teaches. The examiner's attention is invited to Figure 3 (reproduced below) and to the accompanying description at column 2, lines 38-51, where it is expressly disclosed that the bevel angle is a constant 45 degrees. In other words, while the width of the bevel changes, the bevel angle of Colvin never changes, contrary to the position taken by the examiner. Kinsley does not make up for this deficiency in Colvin. As such, the rejection of claim 14 is improper and should be withdrawn.

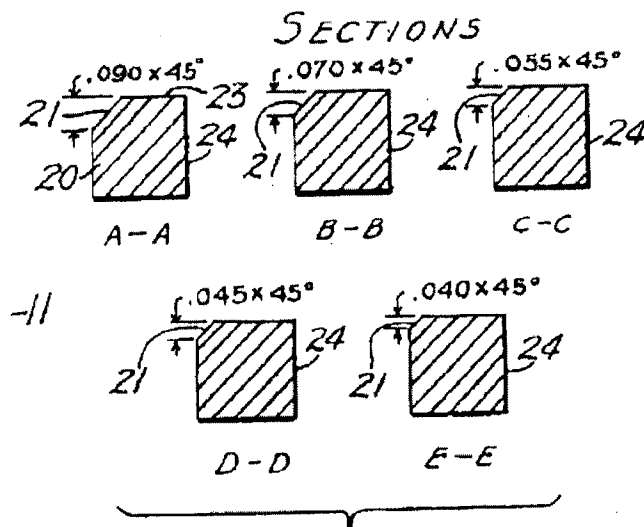


Fig. 3 13 23

Appln. No.: 10/551,245
Reply to Office action of February 22, 2008

It is believed that this application now is in condition for examination on the merits. Further and favorable action is respectfully requested.

The Patent Office is authorized to charge or refund any fee deficiency or excess to Deposit Account No. 04-1061.

Respectfully submitted,

DICKINSON WRIGHT PLLC

July 18, 2008

Date

/Robert L. Stearns/

Robert L. Stearns, Registration No. 36,937

38525 Woodward Avenue, Suite 2000

Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304-2970

(248) 433-7382